Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO US UR

SUBJ: SOMALI APPROACH TO USG CONCERNING POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND MILI-

TARY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 67050

1. DURING CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AHMAD SIDQI MARCH 30 TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN HORN AND CUBAN/SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA (SEPTELS), SIDQI TOLD EMBOFFS TAHT GOE UNDERSTOOD SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD RECENTLY MADE OFFICIAL DEMARCH TO US REQUESTING US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SIDQI SAID AS RESULT REALIGNMENTS TAKING PLACE IN HORN, PARTICULARLY INCIPIENT SOVIET/ETHIOPIA RELATIONSHIP, PRESIDENT SIDA WISHED TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, SIDQI SAID, SOMALIA WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT AT LEAST EQUAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM US AND ITS FRIENDS.

2. SIDQI BELEIVED THIS WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO PLAY DECISIVE ROLE IN COUNTERING SOVIET/CUBAN OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA. HE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT US HAD NOT RESPONDED TO SOMALI REQUEST. HE SAID US APPARENTLY STILL SUFFERING FROM "ANGOLA COMPLEX". SUCH US TIMIDITY AND CAUTION IN FACE OF GROWING CUBAN/SOVIET OFFENSIVE, AS DRAMATIZED BY CASTRO AND PODGORNY VISITS, WAS SECRET

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LEADING MANY AFRICANS TO CONCLUDE THAT US WOULD PLAY ONLY PASSIVE ROLE IN AFRICA.
EILTS

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
NNN					

Message Attributes

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Subject: SOMALI APPROACH TO USG CONCERNING POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND MILI- TARY ASSISTANCE

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS, SO, US, UR, (SIDQI, AHMAD)

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